

Art Unit: 1797

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the methods composition or kit as claimed prior to the filing date of the instant application. One reference submitted by applicant (R. Badugu et al. Dyes & Pigments 2005) includes one of the instant inventors as an author and was published after the instant applications filing date. While the fluorescent reagents are known, they are not known for sensing cyanide. One reference, Kramer (US 3,432,269) teaches fluorometric detection of cyanide, but does not use the instantly claimed boronic acid containing fluorophores. It appears that what applicant has discovered is that the reaction shown in figure 1 occurs with the boronic acid containing fluorophores to give a measurable change in fluorescence. Thus there is no suggestion to use the known boronic acid containing fluorophores in a fluorometric determination of cyanide.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arlen Soderquist whose telephone number is (571)272-1265. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Arlen Soderquist/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797